

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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The hollow guidewire working channel typically has a thin wall construction which allows the lumen of the working channel to be maximized when compared with polymeric based catheter designs. This allows larger diameter devices to be inserted into it than can be inserted through similar sized catheter-based devices. The larger lumen of the hollow guidewire working channel allows devices such as clot macerators and other larger devices to be delivered to the target lesion. Additionally the larger diameter lumen allows infusion ~~or~~ of clot dissolving fluid and/or aspiration of the debris created in the clot maceration process.

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In the exemplary embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, the hollow guidewire has ~~an~~ a helically wound elongated shaft which defines an axial lumen 20 that receives the drive shaft 22 and which can be used for infusion or aspiration. The elongated shaft includes a proximal outer tube 32, an intermediate coil 34, and a distal coil tip 36. In some embodiments the intermediate coil 34 is made of a stainless steel or nitinol coil, while the distal tip 36 is composed of a flexible, radiopaque coil, such as platinum-iridium. As shown, the intermediate coil 34 is threadedly engaged with the outer tube 32 and distal tip 36, but it will be appreciated that the intermediate coil 34 can be connected to the outer tube 32 and distal tip 36 by any conventional means, e.g. solder, adhesive, or the like. The proximal end of the elongate member 14 can be coupled to a vacuum source or a fluid source (not shown) such that the target site can be aspirated or infused during the procedure.

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In most embodiments, actuation of the drive motor 26 and power supply 28 (e.g. rotation of the drive shaft) will be controlled independent from advancement of the drive shaft 22. However, while the actuator 82 is shown separate from the control system 27 and power supply 28 (Fig. 1), it will be appreciated that actuator 82 and control system 27 can be part of a single, consolidated console attached to the housing 12

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or separate from the housing 12. For example, it is contemplated ~~that~~ that the drive shaft 22 can be rotated and advanced simultaneously by activation of a single actuator (not shown).
